MARVEL COMICS
SPIDER-MAN
KINGPIN
TO THE DEATH
ROMITA
STAN LEE • JOHN ROMITA
TOM DEFALCO • DAN GREEN

SPIDER-MAN

KINGPIN

TO THE DEATH

STAN LEE & JOHN ROMITA

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PENCILS

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NIGHT.
DARKNESS COVERS THE CITY LIKE A SILENT SHROUD.
BUT, NO MATTER HOW DARK...
...NO MATTER HOW SILENT...
...EVIL NEVER SLEEPS!
WATCH IT, LUNKHEAD!
DROP THAT CRATE AN' I'LL RIP YER THROAT OUT!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WHAT'S IN HERE, ANYWAY?
WATCHES, MAN! ALL GOLD 'N SILVER-- AN' DIALS WIT' DIAMONDS IN 'EM!
YEAH, SO?
SO BREAK ONE AN' WE'LL BREAK YER HEAD!
A LIGHT! COMIN' FROM THE ROOF UP THERE!
EACH ONE'A THESE BABIES IS WORTH MORE'N A THOUS-- HEY!
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT AIN'T NO ORDINARY LIGHT!
I REMEMBER SEEIN' IT ONCE--
--JUST BEFORE I GOT SENT TO THE SLAMMER!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
HE'S JUST STANDIN' THERE!
WHY DON'T HE SAY SOMETHIN'?
WHADDA YA WANT, A BLASTED TALK-SHOW HOST?
LET'S GET 'IM!

MEBBE IF WE GIVE 'IM SOME'A THE WATCHES?
WE GOT ENOUGH T'GO AROUND!
NO WAY! WE'RE THREE AGAINST ONE!
HIS CRUDDY WEBBING CAN'T STOP US ALL!
BUT IT ISN'T WEBBING THAT THE WALL-CRAWLER FIRES!
IT'S SOMETHING FAR MORE LETHAL!
COLD, DEADLY LEAD!
WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...
...THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SEEN...
POLICE
...EXCEPT THREE BULLET-RIDDLED CORPSES!

ELSEWHERE...
BUGLE
I TELL YOU THIS TERRORIST, ZOLTARO, MUST BE STOPPED!
WHAT MAKES HIM SO DANGEROUS, BEN?
INTERPOL SAYS HE'S PLANNING TO SEIZE A NEW WEAPON, CODE-NAMED DEATH'S ARROW!
IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON IT--
--NO ONE ON EARTH WILL BE SAFE!
ZOLTARO
I'VE A NEWSPAPER TO RUN, BEN.
LET INTERPOL WORRY ABOUT ZOLTARO!
AS SOON AS SOME INFO TURNS UP, WE'LL BE SURE TO PRINT IT!
A CALL FOR YOU ON LINE TWO, MR. ROBERTSON.
ARE YOU SITTING DOWN, ROBBIE?
SPIDER-MAN JUST SHOT THREE FELONS TO DEATH!
'COURSE I'M SURE! THE BODIES ARE RIGHT HERE!
FORGET ZOLTARO!
THINK OF THE POWER SPIDER-MAN HAS!
IF HE'S TURNED KILLER, WE'RE ALL IN DANGER!

EVEN GANG LEADERS SOMETIMES RELAX OVER AN INNOCENT GAME OF CARDS...
HOW'S THE FAMILY, JOE?
EVERY-ONE'S FINE.
SUDDENLY--
SPIDER-MAN!
ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND?
WE WEREN'T DOIN' ANY-THING!
HE'S OFF THE WALL!
STOP 'IM-- WHILE YOU CAN!
BUT THE ATTACKER STRIKES FIRST!

WITHOUT A WORD, THE MASKED INTRUDER WEB-SWINGS OFF INTO THE NIGHT...
... LEAVING A SCENE OF UNPROVOKED CARNAGE!
SPIDER-MAN'S TURNED KILLER!
HE'S GOTTA BE STOPPED!
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN BERSERK???
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-M MASSACRE
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN OR PUNISHER?
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!
I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG!
WHAT D'YA SAY NOW, ROBBIE?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, JONAH!
HE'S NEVER USED GUNS BEFORE--NEVER KILLED BEFORE!
HEY, I NEVER HAD A TATTOO BEFORE!
DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T GET ONE TOMORROW!

LATER...
SOMEONE BROKE INTO THIS JEWELRY STORE.
THEY'RE STARTING TO LOOT IT!
HEY GUYS, GIVE UP EASY, WILLYA?
IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT AND I'M TIRED!
SPIDER-MAN!
RUN FOR IT-- BEFORE HE STARTS SHOOTIN'!
?
MAYBE, IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE'LL FIND A COP!
EXIT
JAIL'S BETTER THAN GETTIN' SHOT!
YOU GOTTA PROTECT US!
POLICE
THEY'D RATHER BE ARRESTED THAN FACE ME!
THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY STRANGE GOIN' ON HERE!

ALL THOSE OTHER SHOOT-INGS--
--EVERYONE SAYS IT WAS ME WHO DID THEM!
BUT I DON'T EVEN OWN A GUN!
SOMEONE'S SETTING ME UP!
BUT WHO? AND WHY? COULD IT BE THE NEWLY-RETURNED NORMAN OSBORN AGAIN?
THE WHOLE CITY'S TURNED AGAINST ME!
EVEN THE COPS ARE SHOOT-ING AT ME ON SIGHT!
EVERYONE THINKS I'M A WANTON KILLER!
UH-OH-- MY SPIDER-SENSE-- TINGLING LIKE MAD!
I'M A SITTING DUCK UP HERE!
GOTTA MOVE-- FAST!
MADE IT! JUST IN TIME!
RATS! I ALMOST HAD HIM!
BUT HE GOT AWAY UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE!
WELL, ONE OF THE OTHERS'LL GET 'IM!

SHEESH! EVEN THE HUMAN TORCH IS AFTER ME!
I'D BETTER DUCK IN SOMEWHERE AND DUMP MY SPIDEY SUIT!
BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...
HEY! A THING LIKE THAT COULD HURT A GUY!
THAT WAS JUST A WARNING, WALL-CRAWLER!
GIVE YOURSELF UP!
THERE'S NO SANCTUARY FOR A SUPER-HERO WHO TURNS BAD!
MY LUCK'S RUNNING TRUE TO FORM!
EVERY COSTUMED CAVORTER IN TOWN IS AFTER ME!
AND I'D BE AFTER ME, TOO, IF THEIR ACCUSATIONS WERE TRUE!

THE NEXT HOURS ARE A LIVING NIGHTMARE FOR THE HOUNDED WEB-SWINGER..
...AS HE'S ATTACKED BY A HOST OF SUPERHEROES!
AND, THE MOST IRONIC PART OF ALL IS--
--HE CAN'T FIGHT BACK!
THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR JOB!
THEY THINK I'M A MENACE!

ALL THINGS MUST COME TO AN END...
...INCLUDING THOSE GREAT EXAMPLES OF HOW JOHN ROMITA DRAWS OUR SUPER-HEROES!
I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE!
LUCKY FOR ME THAT NONE OF THEM ARE REALLY KILLERS!
BUT PETER PARKER BETTER TAKE THE PLACE OF SPIDER-MAN...
...UNTIL I CAN PROVE MY INNOCENCE!
WELL, IF YA DO, BE SURE'N CALL THE FANTASTIC FOUR, HEAR?
HEY, MAC--SEEN ANYTHIN' OF THAT CRUMMY, WALL-CRAWLIN' WEASEL ANYWHERE AROUND?
EH... NO. I HAVEN'T.
I'M REAL PROUD OF MYSELF, HAVING TO LIE TO ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF ALL!
OKAY, PARKER, YOU'RE GONNA CLEAR UP THIS MESS NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
AN' NOW YA CAN BRAG TO ALL YER FRIENDS THAT YA ACKSHULLY TALKED TO THE EVER-LOVIN', BLUE-EYED THING!

NO, YOU DIDN'T TURN TO ANOTHER STORY BY MISTAKE
IT'S TIME TO VISIT THE PALATIAL DIGS OF WILSON FISK.
...THE ONCE AND FUTURE KINGPIN!
THE UNDER-WORLD IS IN DISARRAY.
RIVAL GANGS, FIGHTING THE LAW AND EACH OTHER...
...WITHOUT ANY VIABLE LEADERSHIP!
I HAVE ABSENTED MYSELF FOR TOO LONG!
IT'S TIME TO RETURN, TO SEIZE THE REINS OF POWER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE COME TO KILL YOU.
THE KINGPIN HAS NO TIME FOR JOKES!
YOU WON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY WHEN--WHEN--
unnhhh::
QUITE RIGHT! I DON'T THINK IT'S FUNNY!
THAT CARPET HAS JUST BEEN CLEANED!

I WANT AN EXPLANATION, DR. MINDELLA!
I THOUGHT YOUR DEATH'S ARROW DRUG WOULD KEEP HIM ALIVE LONGER THAN THAT!
I-I'M SORRY, MR. FISK!
THE DEATH'S ARROW, WHEN GIVEN TO YOUR FAKE SPIDER-MEN, SHOULD INCREASE THEIR STRENGTH FOR AT LEAST SIX HOURS--
--BEFORE IT KILLS THEM!
REMOVE THAT CARRION!
HE IS DESPOILING MY ROOM'S DECOR!
THIS ONE WAS TOO WEAK.
SOME, WHO ARE STRONGER, CAN ACTUALLY TAKE TWO DOSES OF DEATH'S ARROW BEFORE THEY SUCCUMB!
SPARE ME YOUR MUNDANE DETAILS.
WE MUST NOW CONCENTRATE ON PRODUCING ENOUGH OF THE DRUG!
THE TERRORIST, ZOLTARO, WILL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THE LETHAL DEATH'S ARROW!
AND THAT FORTUNE WILL ENABLE ME TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE UNDERWORLD ONCE MORE!

YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
BUGLE
Cloudy, Showers, High 29-28.
CITYWIDE MANHUNT FOR SPIDER-MAN!
THE LAW OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON, AND MURDOCK...
HARD TO BELIEVE THE WEB-SWINGER WOULD REALLY TURN BAD.
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.
DAILY BUGLE
FOGGY, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
I BELIEVE DAREDEVIL KNOWS HOW TO CONTACT SPIDER-MAN...
.. AND YOU'RE FRIENDLY WITH DARE-DEVIL.
IF HE'S CAUGHT ALIVE, SPIDER-MAN WILL NEED A LAWYER!
IT'LL BE A BIGGER CASE THAN O.J.!
I WANT THAT CASE!
DAREDEVIL IS THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN REACH SPIDER-MAN...
. AND YOU CAN REACH DARE-DEVIL.
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
THE LAWYER WHO DEFENDS SPIDER-MAN WILL BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS ATTORNEY IN THE COUNTRY!
I'LL NEED MATT'S HELP FOR THIS
BUT-- WHERE DID HE GO?
DAILY

ROSALIND IS RIGHT!
I'M THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN REACH SPIDER-MAN!
AND I'M THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S TURNED BAD--
--DESPITE THE EVIDENCE!
DIDN'T EXPECT TO GO INTO ACTION SO SOON!
KLIK!
WHEREVER PETER IS--
--HE'LL BE HURT, AND LONELY--
--AND HE'LL NEED A FRIEND!
AND THAT'S WHERE DAREDEVIL COMES IN!

WE'VE SUBJECTED YOU TO ENOUGH TENSION FOR A WHILE.
SO LET'S VISIT A MORE TRANQUIL SCENE...
IT'S BREAKFAST TIME IN THE HUMBLE HOME WHERE ANNA WATSON LIVES WITH HER NIECE MARY JANE...
...AND MJ'S HUSBAND, PETER.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, AUNT ANNA?
YES, DEAR. IT'S THAT AWFUL SPIDER-MAN!
I REMEMBER HOW POOR MAY PARKER WAS ALWAYS TERRIFIED OF HIM...
...AND NOW I KNOW SHE WAS RIGHT!
BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD SPIDER-MAN'S SIDE OF THE STORY!
WHAT SIDE CAN THERE BE?
ALL THOSE HORRIBLE SHOOTINGS--!
PETEY, HOW WILL YOU EVER CLEAR SPIDER-MAN'S NAME?
I DUNNO, HONEY.
BUT THIS IS AMERICA!
EVERYONE IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY!
YEAH, BUT TELL THAT TO ALL THE COPS AND SUPERHEROES TRYING TO HUNT ME DOWN!

While walking, Peter wonders which of his enemies is trying to frame him...
And if you think we'll ruin John's great artwork with more copy--
--forget it!

SUDDEN THOUGHT: SOMEONE OUGHTA GIVE US A NO-PRIZE!
HERE'S AN ENTIRE SUPERHERO YARN WITH THE FEMALES FULLY DRESSED!
MY SPIDER-SENSE--TINGLING!
COOL! TAKE CARE, TIGER!
HERE'S YOUR SUBWAY, HONEY. CATCH YOU LATER!
I DON'T CARE WHAT I MAY HAVE TO FACE--
--AS LONG AS I KNOW THAT MARY JANE IS SAFE!
THE TINGLING'S GETTING STRONGER THAN EVER!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE'S BAITED A TRAP FOR ME!
DAREDEVIL!
YOU KNEW I'D SENSE YOUR PRESENCE!
IF YOU'RE AFTER ME, LIKE THE OTHERS--
OF COURSE I DIDN'T!
RELAX, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
TELL ME, DID YOU SHOOT THOSE MEN?

USING HIS SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING LIKE A BUILT-IN LIE DETECTOR--
--DAREDEVIL MONITORS PETER'S PULSE RATE--
--AND REALIZES HIS FRIEND IS TELLING THE TRUTH!
OKAY, WEBHEAD, YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANY LONGER!
WHAT D'YA MEAN, DD?
I MEAN HOP INTO YOUR SPIDER-THREADS,
WE'VE GOT SOME BUTT TO KICK--
--TOGETHER!
I HEAR YA, HORNHEAD!
LOUD AND CLEAR!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
POSIE
TALK, MISTER!
WHO'S PULLING OFF THOSE SPIDER-MAN SHOOTINGS?
HEY! THEM FANCY COSTUMES DON'T GIVE YA THE RIGHT T' SHOVE ME AROUND!
SHUT YOUR YAP! WHO MADE YOU A FASHION CRITIC?

HEY, DD, IS THIS HOW YOU ALWAYS QUESTION PEOPLE?
NO--SOMETIMES I GET ROUGH!
NO CRUMMY, SMART-TALKIN' FANCY-PANTS SUPERHERO'S GONNA PUSH ME AROUND!
HEY, WAIT YOUR TURN, HUH?
ONE THING I HATE IS A LINE CRASHER!
OKAY, BUTTERCUP, TELL ME AGAIN HOW NO ONE'S GONNA PUSH YOU AROUND!
STOP IT! STOP IT!
I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!
GREAT! I LOVE GOOD CONVERSATION!
THE WORD ON THE STREET SAYS SOMEONE'S IMPORTING HEAVY HIRED MUSCLE!
NAME, CUDDLES! GIVE ME A NAME!

SPEAKING OF NAMES, HERE'S ONE THAT SHALL LIVE FOREVER IN THE SHINING ANNALS OF JOURNALISM--OR SO HE HOPES.
J. JONAH JAMESON, THE MEDIA'S EVER-BLAZING BEACON OF CHAOTIC CONFUSION...
HAS THAT WEB-HEADED WEASEL BEEN CAUGHT YET?
WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE? WHO'S ON THE STORY?
I WANT HEADLINES! I WANT SCOOPS! I WANT NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING ON THE STREET--THE BUGLE'S GOTTA GET IT FIRST!
EVERYTHING'S COOL, JJ.
OUR BEST PEOPLE ARE ON THE CASE.
JONAH'S ONE EGG SHORT OF A CARTON!
IT'S THE ZOLTARO STORY WE SHOULD BE WORKING ON!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MAN...
...BUT AS LONG AS HE'S THE ONE PAYING OUR SALARIES..!
YOU'RE WHISPERING!
I HATE WHISPERING!
UNLESS I'M DOING IT!
WHY DON'T YOU PAY ATTENTION WHEN I'M SHOUTING?
JONAH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SHOUTING!
ELSEWHERE...
FASTER, SPIDEY!
HEY, NO POINT IN BREAKIN' THE SOUND BARRIER!
WOW! THE GUY'S BLIND AND I'M NOT GOIN' FAST ENOUGH FOR HIM!

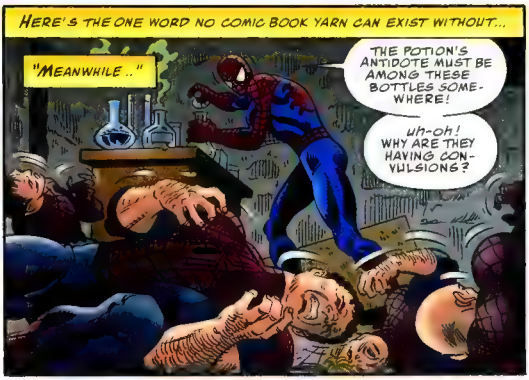
THIS IS WHERE THAT TWO-BIT PUNK SAID WE'D FIND THE ANSWERS WE WANT!
A SEEMINGLY ABANDONED WAREHOUSE?
YEAH, THAT'S REAL ORIGINAL!
JUST BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS SEE THIS IN LOW-BUDGET MOVIES...
...DOESN'T MEAN IT CAN'T HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE!
THERE ARE VOICES DOWN THERE
BUT I CAN'T HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
THAT'S MY DEPARTMENT.
FIVE VOICES.
ALL TALKING AT ONCE.
MENTIONING ZOLTARO, DEATH ARROW, KINGPIN...
...AND SPIDER-MAN!
BUT FOUR OF THEIR HEARTBEATS ARE THE MOST INTERESTING OF ALL.
THEY'RE RACING AT AN UNNATURAL SPEED--
--WHICH THE HUMAN HEART CAN'T TOLERATE FOR LONG!

YER SURE THAT STUFF YER INJECTIN' IS SAFE, DOC?
FOR WHAT YOU'RE GETTING PAID, WHO CARES?
DOC'S RIGHT. EASIEST DOUGH WE EVER MADE!
WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN MAKE IT A LITTLE TOUGHER FOR YOU!
FOUR CLOWNS DRESSED LIKE ME!
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW?
WE KEEP HITTING THEM--
--BUT THEY DON'T STAY DOWN!
THEY'RE STRONGER THAN THEY SHOULD BE!
MUST BE THAT STUFF THEY WERE INJECTED WITH!

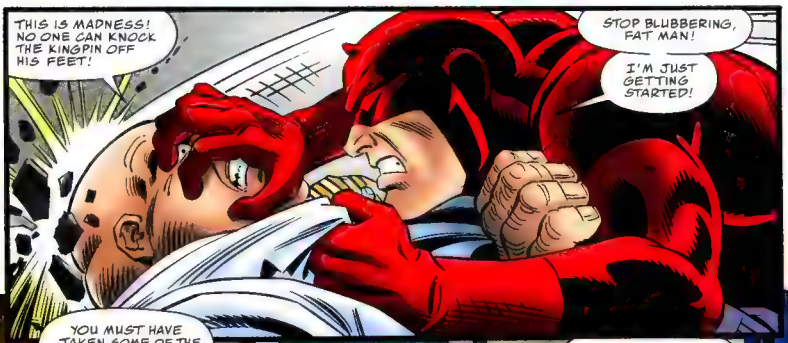
GLAD I'M WEARING MY BELT CAMERA!
I'LL SNAP VISUAL PROOF THAT OTHERS IN MY COSTUME DID THE SHOOTING!
YOU WON'T GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
BUILT-IN ARTILLERY--WHERE HIS WEB-SHOOTERS SHOULD BE!
WONDER WHO DREAMED THAT UP?
SO WE WON'T GET OUT ALIVE, huh?
WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DIALOGUE, BIRD-BRAIN?
FROM DC COMICS?
uh-oh! A BEAKER CONTAINING THAT POISON JUST BROKE!
WHY IS IT MAKING MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE?
NONE OF IT SPILLED ON ME!

THAT'S WHY I'M TINGLING!
HORNHEAD'S IN JEOPARDY!
HEY, DD-- YOU CUT YOUR ARM ON THE GLASS FROM THAT BEAKER!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
BUT THAT CHEMICAL GOT INTO YOUR BLOOD!
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT--
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE RAN OUT ON ME!
I'VE GOTTA FIND HIM!
THERE MUST BE AN ANTIDOTE TO THAT POTION!
BUT WHY?
IF I CAN GET IT TO HIM IN TIME--!
MINDELLA!
NOBODY BARGES IN HERE UNINVITED!
I HAD TO, KINGPIN!
WE WERE ATTACKED BY SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL!
SPIDER-MAN? HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY NOW!
AS FOR DAREDEVIL--I CAN DEAL WITH HIM--ANYWHERE, ANY TIME!

BUT YOU, YOU SNIVELLING TOADY--
--HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE ATTACK OF TWO SUPERHEROES?
HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO ESCAPE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU WEREN'T FOLLOWED?
HE DOESN'T KNOW!
AND THAT'S JUST HOW I WANTED IT!
DAREDEVIL!
NO NEED FOR THE INTRO, PORKY--
--I ALREADY KNOW MY NAME!
YOU ARROGANT COSTUMED CLOD!
YOU DARE MATCH YOUR PROWESS AGAINST MINE?
I CAN CRUSH A DOZEN LIKE YOU BEFORE BREAK-FAST!
THEN THIS'LL BE DUCK SOUP FOR YOU, TUBBY--
--'CAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME!
BUT HERE'S A FLASH FOR YOU--
--BREAKFAST TIME'S OVER!


HERE'S THE ONE WORD NO COMIC BOOK YARN CAN EXIST WITHOUT...
"MEANWHILE..."
THE POTION'S ANTIDOTE MUST BE AMONG THESE BOTTLES SOMEWHERE!
uh-oh! WHY ARE THEY HAVING CONVULSIONS?

IT'S THE POTION!
AFTER MAKING THEM SUPER-STRONG--IT DESTROYS THEM!
AND DAREDEVIL HAS IT IN HIS BLOOD!


THIS IS MADNESS! NO ONE CAN KNOCK THE KINGPIN OFF HIS FEET!
STOP BLUBBERING, FAT MAN!
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED!

YOU MUST HAVE TAKEN SOME OF THE DEATH'S ARROW POTION!
BUT YOU'RE STILL NO MATCH FOR ME!
ONCE YOU'RE CRUSHED, AND I SELL THE FORMULA TO ZOLTARO, I'LL HAVE MONEY ENOUGH TO BECOME ONCE AGAIN--KINGPIN OF CRIME!
YOU AND THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST TERRORIST, huh?
A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN!
BUT Y'KNOW SOMETHING, CUEBALL?
IT'S TIME TO START THINKING DIVORCE!

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, MASKED MAN!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY--
--YOU'RE WEAKENING!
THE DEATH'S ARROW POTION ONLY LASTS SO LONG!
I DON'T NEED ANY POTION TO HANDLE YOU!
PERHAPS NOT.
BUT THERE'S ONE OTHER FACT YOU SHOULD KNOW...
WHEN THE POTION WEARS OFF--
--YOU DON'T REVERT BACK TO YOUR NORMAL SELF--
--YOU GROW INCREASINGLY WEAKER--AND WEAKER--
--AS I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED!
HE'S HELPLESS!
KILL HIM, KINGPIN--WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE!
NOT YET, MINDELLA.
WE'LL GIVE HIM ANOTHER DOSE OF THE POTION!
TO SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES--
--BEFORE IT DESTROYS HIM!

IF ONLY THERE WAS A GOOD SYNONYM FOR--
"MEANWHILE..."
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE GOT THE ANTI-DOTE!
BUT WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?
IT WON'T DO DAREDEVIL ANY GOOD IF I CAN'T FIND HIM!
THE POTION'S ALREADY FINISHED THESE FOUR DEAD SPIDER-MEN!
WHAT IF DAREDEVIL'S NEXT?!?
HE SAID HE HEARD THOSE KILLERS MENTION THE TERRORIST ZOLTARO!
THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
PARKER! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
YEAH, I DO HAVE NEW INFO ABOUT ZOLTARO!
MY INFORMANT TOLD ME WHERE HE'LL BE!
BUT I'LL NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER WHEN I GET THERE!
HERE'S THE LOCATION--!
BINGO!
TELEPHONE

I HOPE I CAN GET THERE BEFORE--
UH-OH! A SQUAD CAR!
HE SPOTTED ME!
CAN'T BLAME 'EM FOR FIRING!
THEY THINK I'M A KILLER!
BUT I CAN'T LET ANYTHING STOP ME!
DAREDEVIL NEEDS THE ANTIDOTE--
--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
I JUST HOPE HE'S HEADED FOR THE SAME PLACE AS ME!
YOU GUESSED IT, TRUE BELIEVER!
THIS IS THE PLACE!
A LONELY WATERFRONT LOCALE.
PREARRANGED MEETING PLACE FOR TWO OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN OF ALL.

AND SO...
...THE MERCILESS KINGPIN...
...FINALLY MEETS...
...THE DEADLY ZOLTARO!
NOT QUITE THE SAME AS "DR. LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME!"
NEITHER MAN TAKES HIS EYES OFF THE OTHER.
NEITHER MAN SPEAKS AS ZOLTARO'S MONEY IS EXCHANGED FOR THE KINGPIN'S POTION.
SO THICK IS THE AURA OF EVIL...
...IT CAN ALMOST BE FELT!

A PERFECT VANTAGE POINT!
BUT WHERE'S PARKER WITH HIS CAMERA?
NOW, MINDELLA!
GIVE DAREDEVIL HIS SECOND SHOT!
HE WILL LIVE JUST LONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY ZOLTARO FOR US!
THEN WE WILL HAVE THE MONEY...
...PLUS THE POTION BACK AGAIN!

THIS IS WHY I AM, AND SHALL ALWAYS BE--
--THE KINGPIN!
KLIK
BUT THE CRIME LORD HAS NO MONOPOLY ON DECEIT!
HE BLASTED THE KINGPIN'S CAR!
I'VE GOT TO RADIO THE POLICE!
IF ONLY PARKER HAD GOTTEN IT ON FILM!
GO BACK.
WE WILL REGAIN MY BOMB-PROOF CASE.
ZOLTARO GIVES MONEY TO NO ONE.

FAREWELL, KINGPIN!
ONE LESS DECADENT IMPERIALIST PIG!
YOU DID IT, ZOLTARO!
NOW, WITH THE DEATH'S ARROW, NOTHING CAN STOP US!
WELL, PERHAPS ONE THING...
... A NEWLY-REVIVED, FIGHTING-MAD, SCARLET-GARBED FIGURE...
...STRIKING LIKE THUNDER WITH BATTLE-HONED FURY!
A ROARING, RAGING, UN-STOPPABLE DAREDEVIL!

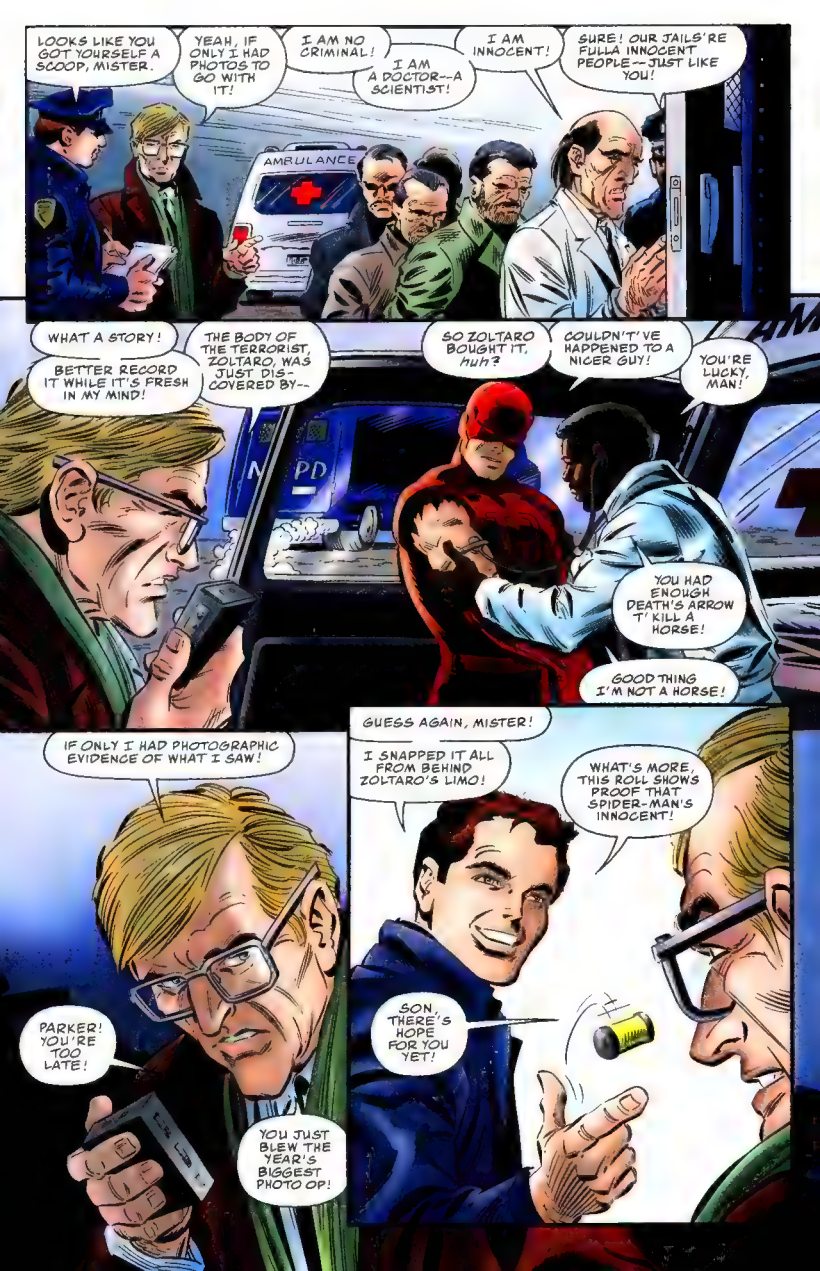
AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER COSTUME-CLAD FIGURE ENTERS THE SCENE...
DAREDEVIL--FIGHTING LIKE A MADMAN!
THE DEATH'S ARROW HASN'T WEAKENED HIM YET!
I'LL EVEN THE ODDS A BIT--
--NOT THAT HE SEEMS TO NEED IT!
THE WAY HE SNARLED AT ME--
--LIKE WE'RE ENEMIES!
THE DEATH'S ARROW--IT'S AFFECTED HIM!
SPIDER-MAN! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
GOTTA GIVE HIM THE ANTIDOTE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
LET THE FOOLS FIGHT!
I'LL STILL GET AWAY WITH THE PRICELESS POTION!
UMMPH!
MAYBE IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE!

THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES!
YOU CAME TO STOP ME!
BUT NO ONE CAN STOP DAREDEVIL! NO ONE!
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL--
--DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!
THE TOUGH THING IS--
--I'VE GOTTA FIGHT HIM WITHOUT HURTING HIM!
HEY--I'M FINALLY GETTING LUCKY!
HE'S WEAKEN-ING!
BUT THAT'S NOT LUCKY FOR HIM!
IT MEANS THE DEATH'S ARROW IS IN ITS FINAL STAGES!
IF HE DOESN'T GET THE ANTIDOTE NOW--
--HE'S HAD IT!
THE VIAL! IF I LOSE IT--!
YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING SOME STUMBLE-BUM!
I CAN BEAT A DOZEN LIKE YOU!

SPIDEY-SPEED--DON'T FAIL ME NOW!
W-WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING ME?
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I HATE WHAT I HAVE TO DO, BUT--
--EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
NO WAY I COULDA DONE THIS IF HE WERE THE OLD DAREDEVIL!
I CAN HARDLY FEEL HIS PULSE!
HE'S BARELY BREATHING!
IF I'M TOO LATE--
NO! I CAN'T BE! I CAN'T!

SPEAKING OF THINGS THAT CAN'T BE...
YOU!
BUT THE BOMB-- YOU WERE IN THE CAR!
I STOOD OUTSIDE THE CAR!
YOU SEE, ZOLTARO, I NEVER TRUSTED YOU!
TRUST? I SPIT ON YOUR TRUST!
I NEED NO BOMB TO FINISH YOU WHEN I CAN USE MY OWN TWO HANDS!
YOU'LL HAVE USE OF THEM NO LONGER!
NOBODY DOUBLE-CROSSES THE KINGPIN!

SPIDER-MAN! I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
I PHONED THE COPS!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH ATTACKING DAREDEVIL!
SHUCKS! I THOUGHT I'D COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME!
IF YOU WANNA MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL, GET SOME MEDICS OVER HERE!
OL' HORNHEAD'S GONNA NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION!
FIRST YOU INJURE THEM, THEN YOU TREAT THEM-- IS THAT IT?
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT HERE'S THE ANTIDOTE FOR THE DEATH'S ARROW!
DAREDEVIL'S STARTING TO COME AROUND.
HE'LL CLUE YOU IN WHEN HE RECOVERS!
'TIL THEN, DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN WEBS, HEAR?
MINUTES LATER.
THEN SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T ATTACK YOU?
IT WAS--MY FAULT.
LET'S GO, MINDELLA! MOVE IT!


LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT YOURSELF A SCOOP, MISTER.
YEAH, IF ONLY I HAD PHOTOS TO GO WITH IT!
I AM NO CRIMINAL!
I AM A DOCTOR--A SCIENTIST!
I AM INNOCENT!
SURE! OUR JAILS'RE FULLA INNOCENT PEOPLE--JUST LIKE YOU!
AMBULANCE
WHAT A STORY!
BETTER RECORD IT WHILE IT'S FRESH IN MY MIND!
THE BODY OF THE TERRORIST, ZOLTARO, WAS JUST DIS-COVERED BY--
SO ZOLTARO BOUGHT IT, huh?
COULDN'T'VE HAPPENED TO A NICER GUY!
YOU'RE LUCKY, MAN!
PD
YOU HAD ENOUGH DEATH'S ARROW T' KILL A HORSE!
GOOD THING I'M NOT A HORSE!
IF ONLY I HAD PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF WHAT I SAW!
GUESS AGAIN, MISTER!
I SNAPPED IT ALL FROM BEHIND ZOLTARO'S LIMO!
WHAT'S MORE, THIS ROLL SHOWS PROOF THAT SPIDER-MAN'S INNOCENT!
PARKER! YOU'RE TOO LATE!
YOU JUST BLEW THE YEAR'S BIGGEST PHOTO OP!
SON, THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET!

GOTTA RUN!
CAN'T WAIT 'TIL JAMESON GETS THIS STORY!
MAYBE WHEN HE SEES THOSE PIX, HE'LL FINALLY GET OFF SPIDER-MAN'S BACK!
PETER-- WE'VE GOT TO TALK!
I OWE YOU BIG TIME, MISTER.
IF YOU HADN'T REACHED ME WITH THAT ANTIDOTE--
C'MON, THAT JUST EVENS UP THE SCORE!
ANYWAY, IT'S A PERFECT WRAP-UP!
NOT QUITE!
KINGPIN'S GONE!
ELSEWHERE.
SOMETIMES YOU WIN.
AND SOMETIMES YOU DON'T.
WHEN YOU'RE THE KINGPIN, YOU PLAY THE ODDS.
EACH NEW BATTLE MAKES ME STRONGER... WISER.
SO, NEXT TIME..
...I'LL WIN.
The End.

a John Romita Sketchbook

We thought it would be fun to let all of you peek behind the curtain of creativity for a moment and catch a glimpse of a master at work.

So, herewith, a stunning sample of the redoubtable Mr. Romita's preliminary work on "Kingpin" accompanied by his fascinating thought processes.

It's a treat you won't soon forget...

WHEN I START BLOCKING IN PAGES FROM THE PLOT, I DRIVE MYSELF NUTS, TRYING TO CHOOSE THE BEST VISUALS TO FOCUS ON TAKES ME SO LONG, I START THINKING OUT LOUD AND THIS DRIVES VIRGINIA AND MY SONS CRAZY, TOO.

AT BREAKFAST OR DINNER THE ROMITA CLAN REVERTS BACK TO THE 'GOOD' OLD DAYS WHEN I FIRST AGONIZED OVER THE SPIDER-MAN PACING IN THE LATE SIXTIES. SUGGESTIONS CAME HOT AND HEAVY IN 1997 (THEY WERE JUST TRYING TO AVOID RUNNING THEIR SUMMER).

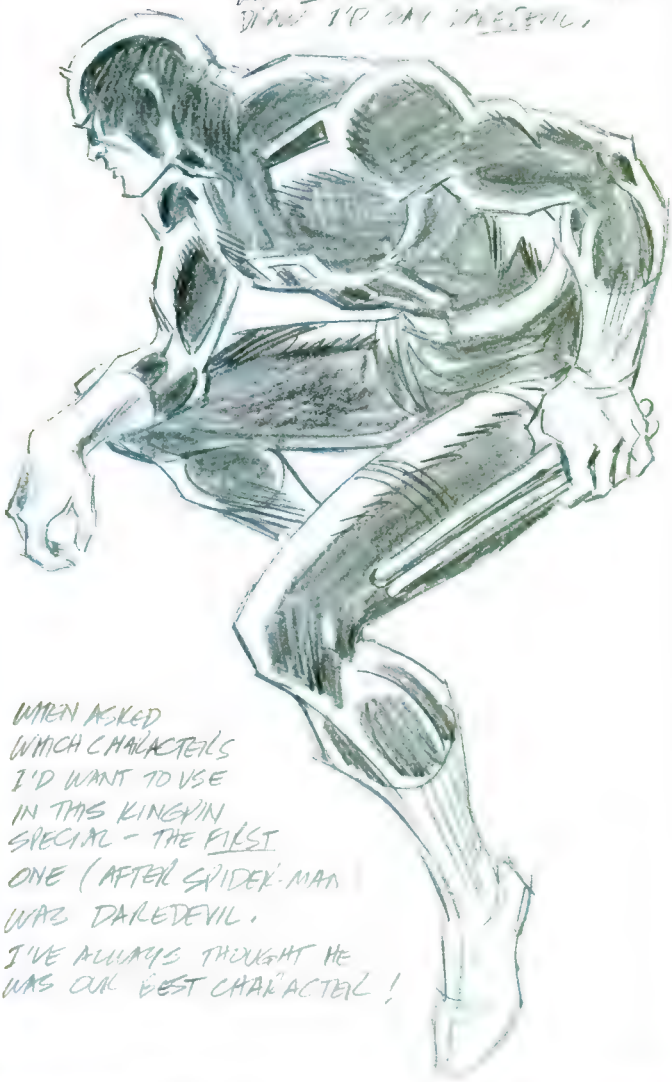
VIRGINIA LED OFF WITH "WHAT IF WHEN DAREDEVIL IS GIVEN THE 'DEATH'S ARROW' HE REGAINS HIS SIGHT TEMPORARILY WE ALL THOUGHT 'GOOD POSSIBILITY ... BUT TAMPERS WITH THE BASIC PREMISE OF DAREDEVIL.

MY SON VIC CAME UP WITH A TWIST ON THAT. WHAT IF DAREDEVIL'S HEIGHTENED SENSES WERE LOST TEMPORARILY? THIS HAD POSSIBILITIES!

JOHN JR AND I TRIED TO THINK OF HOW TO SLIP THIS BIT INTO THE PLOT WHICH TOM DE FALCO HAD ALREADY JAM-PACKED WITH GOOD POSSIBILITIES.

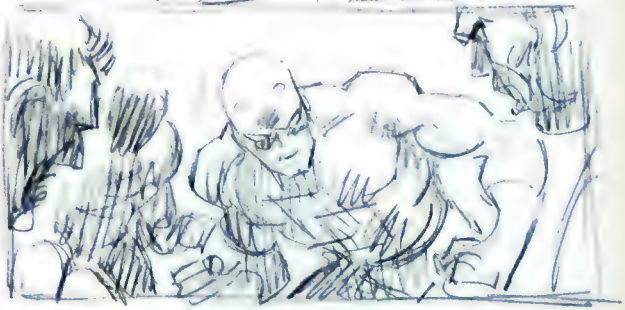
WE FINALLY HAD TO LET IT GO BECAUSE IT WOULD'VE MESSED UP THE SPIDEY-DAREDEVIL BATTLE. I'M STILL NOT SURE I CHOSE RIGHT.

FIRST SKETCHES OF DR. MINDELLA!


WHEN ASKED
WHICH CHARACTERS
I'D WANT TO USE
IN THIS KINGPIN
SPECIAL - THE FIRST
ONE (AFTER SPIDER-MAN
WAS DAREDEVIL.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT HE
WAS OUR BEST CHARACTER!

TRYING THINGS - BREAKDOWNS

DD 'BLIND' — NO HEIGHTENED SENSES —



ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS JACK LONDON'S SEA WOLF! WOLF LARSEN SURROUNDED BY MUTINEERS SHOOTING. HE'S BLIND... THE PERGAD'S BLIND!

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHY I'M ALWAYS FIGHTING DEADLINES IS PAGE 18. TOM DEFALCO HAD THE PARKERS GOING TO SCHOOL AND THE PLOT CALLED FOR AN ENTRANCE TO THE 'ELEVATED' TRAIN. I THUMBNAILED THE HALF PAGE AND, BEFORE I GOT TO THE ACTUAL PAGE, MY FANATIC NEED TO BE ACCURATE FORCED ME TO CHANGE IT TO A SUBWAY ENTRANCE. ONLY PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN FOREST HILLS WOULD EVEN NOTICE THIS... OR CARE!

CHARACTERS

WHEN I START A BOOK AND NEED TO DEVELOP A NEW CHARACTER OR TWO I USUALLY SKETCH FACES AND BODY SHAPES UNTIL I SETTLE ON WHAT WORKS.

WITH THE KINGPIN SPECIAL TWO NEW CHARACTERS ARE INVOLVED. DR. MINDELLA WHO IS A DOCTOR-SCIENTIST TYPE WITH SLIGHT HORROR OVERTONES. THIS LED ME TO MAKE HIM A BIT 'GROTESQUE' AND AFTER A FEW 'TRIES' I SEEMED TO FIND MYSELF DRIFTING TOWARD A FACE NOT UNLIKE OLD UNCLE CREEPY. I LIKE THE MAD DOCTOR LOOK WHICH RESULTED.

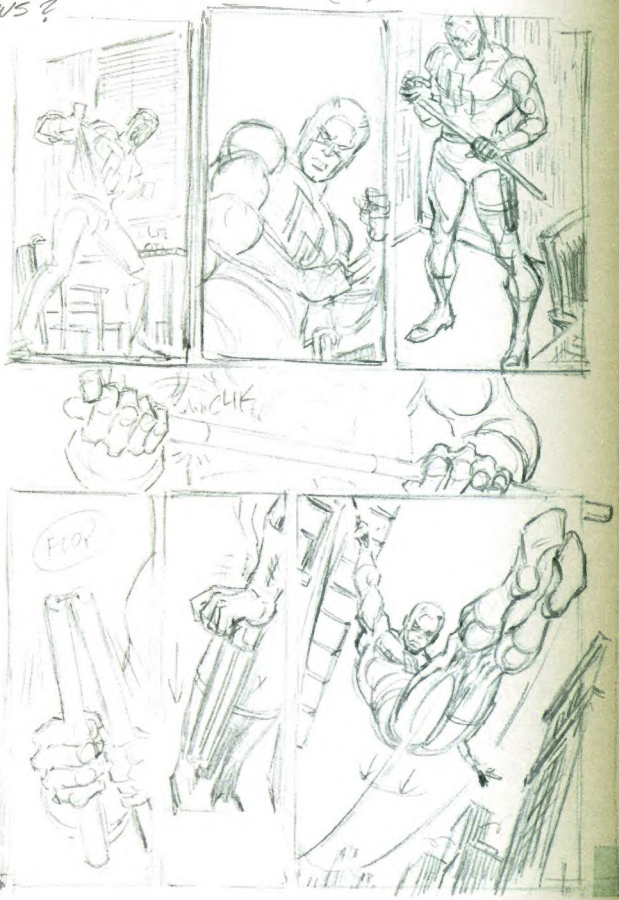
ZOLTARO THE TERRORIST WAS SURELY A CRUEL, MERCILESS, MIDDLE-EASTERN TYPE. I HAD A HARD TIME WITH THIS GUY BECAUSE EVERY FACE I CAME UP WITH LOOKED 'FAMILIAR' AND 'STANDARD'. I SETTLED FOR THIS ZOLTARO ONLY BECAUSE I HAD TO GET MORE OUT!

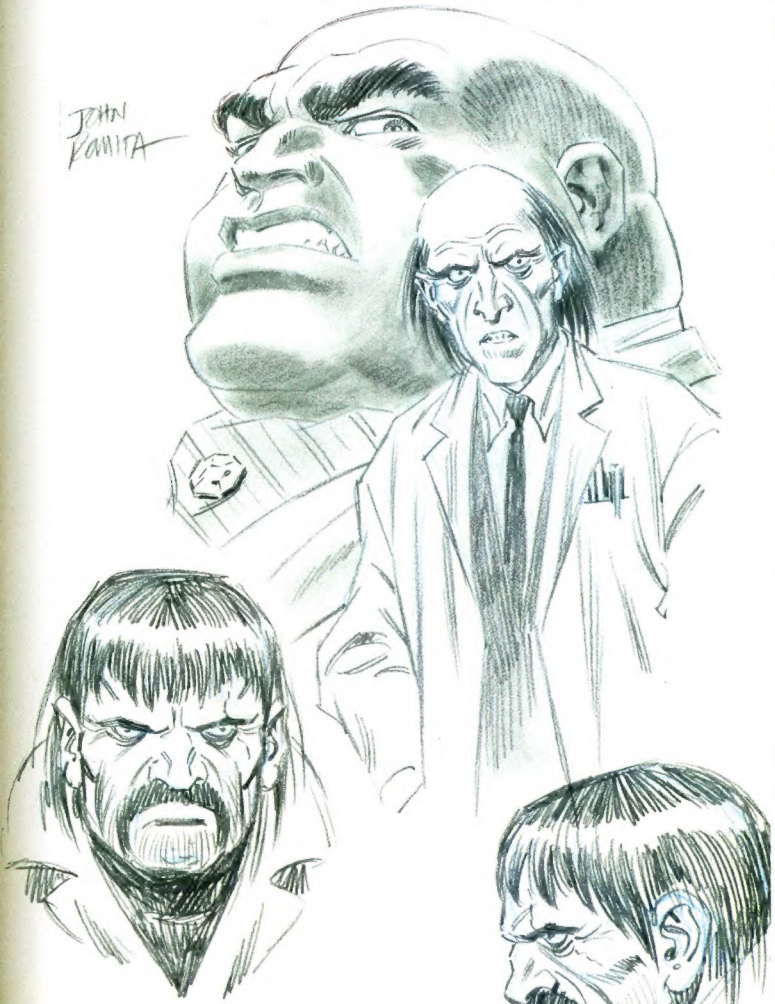
SEE 'CHARACTER' [illegible]

WHEN I WAS 19 YEARS OLD AND STARTING A NEW STORY, I REALLY WENT OVERBOARD! THE MAIN CHARACTER LOOKING CONSISTANTLY THE SAME WAS VERY HARD FOR ME. EVERYONE HAD THE SAME FEATURES (AND WORSE...LOOKED DIFFERENT IN PROFILE THAN FULL FACE.) SO... I MADE A CLAY HEAD ABOUT 3 OR 4 INCHES HIGH TO TURN AND SEE WHAT ALL VIEWS LOOKED LIKE! THIS ONLY LASTED FOR 3 OR 4 STORIES BECAUSE OF TIME AND SCALE. (DEADLINES)

SOMETIMES, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE A SEQUENCE MORE DYNAMIC, I SACRIFICE A PANEL OR TWO WITH DETAIL AND INFORMATION I HAD INCLUDED ORIGINALLY. PAGE 15 AT FIRST WAS TO SHOW DAREDEVIL'S BILLY CLUB FOLDED AND HOLSTERED! WHEN I GOT TO THE FINAL STAGE, I OPTED FOR WHAT I THOUGHT WAS 2 MORE EXCITING PANELS.

LESS INFORMATION TRADED FOR ACTION(?) WHO KNOWS?





ZOLTARO WAS A BIT TOO 'HOKEY' IN THIS SKETCH SO, IN THE STORY PAGES HE WAS LESS HAMMY AND EXAGGERATED (I HOPE)! I ALSO USED LESS STRINGY, LONG HAIR TO BE CLEARLY DIFFERENT THAN DR. MINDELLA'S!

ZOLTARO

I figure I've written more than a gazillion introductions during the gloriously goofy years of my keyboard-pounding career. I've written intros for authors I've never met, for books I'd barely read, about subjects I couldn't even pronounce. It reached the point where anytime I heard the word "introduction," I stared writing.

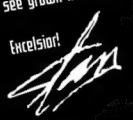
To make a long story short (which I hate to do, 'cause I'm paid by the word), I promised myself not to write any more intros this year.

Naturally, an honorable person like yours truly hates breaking promises to anybody, especially to someone as noble as me. So, when editor Ralph Macchio asked me to write the intro to this book, Stan did sayeth "nay!" But then, the malevolent Macchio destroyed my resolve by saying, "John Romita is writing an introduction – and hoped you'd do one, too."

To me, the very mention of the name "John Romita" is like a bugle call. It feels like ol' Ring-a-Ding and I have collaborated on strips since the dawn of time. In fact, Jazzy Johnny (did I ever tell you how he hates those nicknames?) is as much an architect of the Marvel Age of Comics as Irving Forbush himself. I used to give him the sketchiest idea for a story and he'd embellish it, polish it, glamorize it – until, by the time he finished his indescribably beautiful artwork, it was such fun for me to write the copy that I almost felt guilty getting paid for it. (I said "almost" because I'm too gentlemanly to give offense by refusing payment.)

You now hold in your hands another practically priceless production from Johnny and the promise-breaker – plotted by another all-time favorite of mine, the ever-talented and titanic Tom DeFalco. So enjoy it. Savor it. Treasure it. Whatever you do, don't criticize it. It's awful to see grown men cry.

Excelsior!



Stan Lee

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

I spent 30 years at the Marvel offices because 15 years free-lance working 7 days a week for an irregular income had worn me out. I needed a five-day weekly routine with a steady salary. Simple!

And more than once, down through the years on staff, I'd pass up projects and later regret it. I wish I had made the time to do the *Wedding Issue*. Many other milestone issues came up and I found them being done by others. I was filled with mixed emotions and my dread of deadlines usually won out. The list of projects I *wished* I had done tormented me.

So what was the first thing I did when I left the office daily-grind for semi-retirement? I took on a one-shot *tour de force* with 48 pages and deadlines! After Ralph Macchio gave me a choice of characters, Tom DeFalco came up with a plot jam-packed with great stuff! All this...and *Stan Lee* to *script* it! And *Dan Green* to ink with *Steve Oliff* coloring! How could I pass it up?

However, self-doubt lurked behind every twist in the road. Could I still tell a story well enough to make readers care? Could I still make it dynamic and exciting for today's readers?

Never fast enough to begin with, I began second-guessing myself into paralysis. An old foolishness of mine was to try to get a comic book story to look like a wide-screen cinemascope epic with stereophonic sound! I'm grateful only I know how far short I always fell! But Ralph and Bob Harras were so patient and supportive that I was finally able to get it done.

Ironically, I used John jr.'s character and locale guides to stay current. Time was when JRJR and others followed *my* character and locale sheets!

Now that it's in print, I'm so gratified, and have such a feeling of accomplishment that I can barely describe how I feel! I hope a "Stan Lee and John Romita Production" in the nineties is as much fun and satisfaction for fans as it is for me!

JOHN ROMITA

***The Amazing Spider-Man*: wanted for a heinous crime and mercilessly pursued by friend and foe alike! And in the midst of the beleaguered webspinner's mounting troubles--two ominous new threats rear their ugly heads in the dark side of the city: Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin of Crime, and the merciless gang-lord Zoltaro.**

Despite the incredible odds against him, Spider-Man must find a way to both clear his name and bring down these two underworld rulers. The wondrous wallcrawler dare not fail or the life of his friend--the scarlet swash-buckler known as Daredevil, victim of the Kingpin's Death's Arrow drug--is lost.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime treat, re-teaming Stan Lee and John Romita as they bring to life the most chilling chapter in the career of illustrated fiction's truly inimitable icon: Spider-Man! The stakes are high--the excitement higher!

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